



FIGS. 1-4. 1, *Euprosterina lacipea* Druce; 2, *Molybdogompha polymygmata* Dyar; 3, *Eubaphe medea* (Druce); 4, *Psamathia placidaria* (Walker).

November 1981, 1 male (Fig. 4), collected by Knudson. Body and wings grayish brown above and below; wings above with innumerable, broken, blackish striations and black dots over lower median area of forewing and near anal margin of hindwing; hindwing produced as a short, black-marked, obliquely truncated tail; length of forewing 18 mm. This species ranges from Mexico to Venezuela. In Mexico, it has been collected in Tamaulipas by Knudson and Alma Solis.

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NEW HOST RECORDS FOR *EUPLOEA CORE CORINNA* (MACLEAY) (NYMPHALIDAE)

During the course of taxonomic studies on Asclepiadaceae and Apocynaceae, numerous observations of oviposition, feeding and pupation of the crow butterfly, *Euploea core corinna* (Macleay) were made. This butterfly is widely distributed in northern and eastern Australia (Common & Waterhouse 1981, Butterflies of Australia, Angus & Robertson, Sydney) with temperature requirements and suitable host plants restricting the subspecies range (Scheermeyer 1985, Aust. J. Zool. 33:339-348). In a review of host plant records for this Australian species, various species of Asclepiadaceae and Apocynaceae, either naturalized or cultivated, were listed, as well as native species of these families and the Moraceae (Scheermeyer & Zalucki 1985, Aust. Entomol. Mag. 11:87-90). Some host plants have been demonstrated to significantly affect development times, weights, size, and mortalities at all stages of the life cycle (Rahman, Zalucki & Scheermeyer 1985, J. Aust. Entomol. Soc. 24:95-98).

Euploea core corinna is known at times to oviposit on unsuitable hosts (Kitching & Zalucki 1983, Aust. Entomol. Mag. 10:64-66) and I have observed eggs on *Mammillaria gracilis* Pfeiff. (Cactaceae), but no larval feeding. In some instances, limited larval feeding may occur as observed on the Madagascan *Cynanchum compactum* Choux and three

unidentified *Cynanchum* species related to *C. mahafalense* Jum. & Perr. (Asclepiadaceae).

I observed completion of the life cycle of the butterfly to the adult stage (new records indicated *) on the following hosts in cultivation at the localities and dates listed.

1. In April 1986, on the African *Adenium obesum* Balf.* and *A. multiflorum* Kl.* (Apocynaceae) at the Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Brisbane, Queensland (27°29'S, 153°00'E). Both young and mature leaves were eaten. No feeding was observed on adjacent plants of the related Madagascan *Pachypodium lamieri* Drake.

2. During summer 1985–86 at Didcot, Queensland (25°28'S, 151°52'E), on the Australian *Sarcostemma australe* R. Br. subsp. *australe*, *S. australe* tentative subsp. nov. 1 and *S. australe* tentative subsp. nov. 2 (Forster, unpubl.), but not on adjacent plants of the African *S. viminalis* (L.) R. Br., *S. vanlessenii* Lavr., *S. stolonifera* Adams & Holland and *S. socotranum* Lavr. (Asclepiadaceae). Only young shoots were eaten.

3. During summer 1985–86 at Annerley (27°31'S, 153°03'E) and Strathpine (27°24'S, 152°57'E), Brisbane and Didcot, on young shoots and leaves of the Australian *Hoya australis* R. Br. ex Traill., *H. sana* F. M. Bail.* and *H. macgillivrayi* F. M. Bail.*, the New Guinean *H. archboldiana* C. Norman* and Asian *H. carnosa* (L.) R. Br.*, but not on adjacent plants of the Australian *H. nicholsoniae* F. Muell., *H. poolei* C. T. White & Francis and various unidentified species of Section *Eriostemma* (Asclepiadaceae).

4. During late summer 1986 at Didcot on old leaves and shoots of *Brachystelma microstemma* Schltr.* (syn. *Microstemma tuberosum* R. Br., Forster 1985, Taxon 34: 318–319) (Asclepiadaceae).

All of these host plants (except *Brachystelma*) possess obvious white latex, which is probably ingested by the *Euploea* larva. Australian *Hoya australis* and certain populations of *Sarcostemma australe* s.l. have been found to be highly toxic on ingestion by domestic livestock, with as yet unsatisfactorily determined chemical components of the latex implicated (Everist 1981, Poisonous plants of Australia, Angus & Robertson, Sydney). Presumably the *Euploea* larvae are not affected by this toxic principle.

The chemical composition of latex and leaf surface waxes of different species of *Hoya* differs in the proportions and presence of various triterpenols and their esters (Baas & Niemann 1979, *Planta Medica* 35:348–353; Baas, Warnaar & Niemann 1981, *Acta. Bot. Neerl.* 30:257–263; Warnaar 1984, *Phytochemistry* 23:1049–1053). As the composition of these components appears to be species specific, it would be of interest to investigate whether or not selective *Euploea* feeding on different species of *Hoya* is correlated with these chemical differences in the host plants.

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